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TO: EXAMINER V. VU
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FROM: Todd N. Snyder (Reg. No. 41,320)
DATE: 6/30/00 TIME: 10:20 PM
MATTER NUMBER: Our Ref.: 83000.1013C/P3212C

COMMENTS:

Please deliver to Examiner Vu upon receipt.

Re: U.S. Patent Application Ser. No. 09/063,335
For: A COMPUTER ARCHITECTURE HAVING A STATELESS HUMAN
INTERFACE DEVICE AND METHODS OF USE
Inventors: Northcutt, et al.
Filing Date: April 20, 1998

Enclosed is a courtesy copy of the Preliminary Amendment filed by
Express Mail on June 30, 2000.

Total pages, including cover sheet: 11

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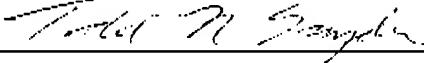
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| Application Number | 09/063,335 |
| Filing Date | April 20, 1998 |
| First Named Inventor | NORTHICUTT, et al. |
| Group Art Unit | 2758 |
| Examiner Name | VU, V. |
| Attorney Docket Number | 83000.1013C/P3212C |

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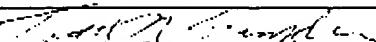
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| Date | June 30, 2000 |

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of)
NORTHCUTT et al.)) Examiner: VU, V.
Serial No. 09/063,335)) Group Art Unit: 2758
Filed: April 20, 1998))
For: A COMPUTER ARCHITECTURE))
HAVING A STATELESS HUMAN))
INTERFACE DEVICE AND))
METHODS OF USE))

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D. C. 20231

Sir:

Please amend the present application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

On page 16, line 18, delete "serial number _____" and insert in place thereof --serial number 09/063,339--.

On page 22, line 24, delete "number _____" and insert in place thereof --number 09/063,492--.

On page 24, line 14, delete "number _____" and insert in place thereof --number 09/063,341 .

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Twice Amended) A computing system architecture comprising:
a data source for providing data through an interconnect fabric;
a stateless human interface device coupled to said interconnect fabric for
receiving and rendering said data, wherein said data source is configured to
maintain an active session associated with a user when said user is disconnected
from said stateless human interface device.

10. (Once Amended) A computing system comprising:
a centralized processing source providing computation and data
generation for a plurality of user sessions;
a plurality of stateless human interface devices coupled through an
interconnect fabric to said centralized processing source, wherein each of said
stateless human interface devices receive data from said centralized processing
source and display output to a user initiating one of said plurality of user
sessions, and wherein each of said stateless human interface devices provide user
input to said centralized processing source across said interconnect fabric, and
wherein said centralized processing source is configured to maintain an active
session associated with said user when said user is disconnected from one of said
stateless human interface devices; and
an identifier used by a user at one of said stateless human interface
devices which identifies said user such that a session associated with said user is

directed through said interconnect fabric to one of said stateless human interface devices.

17. (Once Amended) A computing system comprising:
a plurality of computational service providers;
an interconnect fabric coupled to said computational service providers;
and
a plurality of stateless interface devices coupled to said interconnect fabric,
wherein said plurality of computational service providers are configured to
maintain an active session associated with a user when said user is disconnected
from one of said plurality of stateless interface devices.

28. (Once Amended) A method of computing comprising the steps of:
providing a plurality of computational service providers;
coupling said computational service providers to an interconnect fabric;
coupling a stateless interface device to said interconnect fabric; [and]
providing data to said stateless interface device from said computational service providers across said interconnect fabric; and
maintaining an active session associated with a user when said user is
disconnected from said stateless interface device.

43. (Once Amended) A method of computing comprising the steps of:
providing a plurality of computational service providers;
coupling said computational service providers to an interconnect fabric;

coupling a stateless interface device to said interconnect fabric;
initiating a session by a user on said stateless interface device;
providing input to said stateless interface device;
transmitting said input across said interconnect[ion] fabric to one or more
of said plurality of computational service providers;
operating on said data by said one or more of said plurality of
computational service providers to produce modified data wherein said step of
operating includes changing state and performing computations;
providing said modified data to said stateless interface device from said
computational service providers across said interconnect fabric; [and]
displaying said data on said stateless interface device; and
maintaining an active session associated with a user when said user is
disconnected from said stateless interface device.

44. (Once amended) A method of computing comprising the steps of:
providing an interconnect fabric;
providing a plurality of computational service providers coupled to said
interconnect fabric;
providing a proxy service coupled to said interconnect fabric wherein data
is transmitted from said plurality of computational service providers to said
proxy service across said interconnect fabric; [and]
providing a stateless interface device coupled to said interconnect fabric
wherein data is transmitted from said proxy service to said stateless interface
device across said interconnect fabric; and

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maintaining an active session associated with a user when said user is disconnected from said stateless interface device.

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47. (Once Amended) A method of computing comprising:
[a plurality of state machines;
a stateless machine;]
[an interconnect fabric] coupling [said] a plurality of state machines to
[said] a stateless machine via an interconnect fabric;
providing input to said stateless machine;
transmitting said input to one or more of said plurality of state machines;
operating on said input by said one or more of said plurality of state
machines to produce output;
transmitting said output to said stateless machine; [and]
displaying said output on said stateless machine; and
maintaining on said plurality of state machines an active session associated
with a user when said user is disconnected from said stateless machine.

REMARKS

Claims 1-48 are pending in the present patent application. In the Examiner's Action dated January 19, 2000 (paper no. 7), the Examiner rejected claims 1-48. Applicant has amended claims 1, 10, 17, 28, 43-44 and 47. Applicant respectfully requests examination and consideration of pending claims 1-48.

The Examiner has requested that the Applicant update the status of the related applications cited in pages 16, 22 and 24 of the specification. Applicant has amended the specification accordingly.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3, 5-25, 27-33 and 35-48 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being clearly anticipated by White et al. (U.S. Patent 5,983,273). The Examiner has rejected claims 4, 26 and 34 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over White. The Examiner states:

- White discloses a computing system comprising:
- (a) a plurality of data service providers (4, fig. 1) coupled to an interconnect fabric (3, fig. 1) for providing data/services (see col. 3, lines 19-48),
 - (b) a proxy service (5, fig. 1) for providing user login service, maintaining user accounts, monitoring user sessions, processing user's requests and retrieving data from the data service providers for delivery to users in response to user's requests (see col. 5, lines 29-58),
 - (c) a stateless human interface device (1, fig. 1) comprising:
 - (i) input means for initiating a session and transmitting a request to the proxy service (see col. 4, lines 24-31),
 - (ii) means for receiving data from the proxy service,
 - (iii) means for displaying the received data (see col. 3, lines 51-67),
 - (iv) a smartcard device for providing unique user identification (see col. 4, lines 5-23).

It is noted that an user login process usually requires a password.

...White does not teach using a biometric identifier to provide an unique user identification. An official notice is taken that the use of such biometric identifier is well-known in the art.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to utilize any types of user identifiers to uniquely identify user in the log-in process.

Applicant respectfully disagrees. Applicant submits that White does not teach or suggest, let alone anticipate the present invention for at least the following reasons: White fails to anticipate, teach or suggest a stateless interface device; White fails to teach or suggest an active session associated with a user that is maintained when a user is disconnected from an interface device. These differences are discussed below.

White does not anticipate a stateless interface device as recited in independent claims 1, 10, 17, 28, 43-44 and 47, nor is such an element taught or suggested by White. In column 7, lines 24-40, for example, White discloses a process whereby a ticket is obtained by the WebTV box. This ticket is then submitted to WebTV servers when the WebTV box requests services. The WebTV box therefore maintains state in the form of a ticket. Further, in column 4, lines 59-67, White discloses the use of RAM and mass storage in the client system (i.e., the WebTV box) for state in the form of software or data. Applicant therefore submits that White does not anticipate, teach or suggest a stateless interface device.

White also does not anticipate, teach or suggest maintaining an active session when the user is disconnected. When discussing log-in procedures, White refers to *initiating* a user session (see column 8, lines 60-62). There is no

suggestion that a user session is maintained when the user removes his or her smart card, or otherwise disconnects, from the WebTV box, only the implication that a new session is initiated at each log-in. Therefore, Applicant submits that maintaining an active session associated with a user when that user is disconnected from an interface device is neither taught nor suggested by the cited art.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that independent claims 1, 10, 17, 28, 43-44 and 47 are allowable over the cited art. Further, claims 2-9, 11-16, 18-27, 29-42, 45-46 and 48, being dependent upon allowable base claims, are also allowable for at least the foregoing reasons provided with respect to claims 1, 10, 17, 28, 43-44 and 47.

With respect to the Examiner's Official Notice, Applicant respectfully submits that the use of biometric identifiers within the context of the claimed invention is not well-known in the art. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner provide referential support for the asserted well-known use of biometric identifiers in a system as claimed. Further, Applicant objects to the notion that it would be obvious to utilize *any* types of user identifiers to uniquely identify user in the log-in process. Applicant submits that obvious types of identifiers must be alluded to in the references relied upon. The term "any" is overreaching, and would include types of identifiers yet to be conceived by man. Applicant therefore disagrees with the Examiner's statement regarding obviousness.

CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that the cited art does not teach or suggest, let alone anticipate, claims 1-48 of the present application. Claims 1-48 are therefore in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

THE HECKER LAW GROUP

Date: 6/30/2000

By: Todd N. Snyder
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